

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 801

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Gladys Best of Dayton.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Gladys Best of Dayton; and

WHEREAS, Gladys Best was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Morgantown to Fred and Laura Best, Ms. Best was a lifelong resident of Rhea County; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Best attended Rhea Central High School, where she was a member of the drama club, the basketball team, and the Future Homemakers of America, which club she served as president during her senior year; and

WHEREAS, a career public servant, Ms. Best was the longest-serving elected official in the State of Tennessee, having won fourteen terms as Register of Deeds and serving Rhea County for fifty-six years before her retirement in 2018; and

WHEREAS, she began her career upon graduation from high school, serving as a typist; she became acquainted with Marchie James, who, upon becoming Rhea County Register of Deeds, offered Ms. Best a job; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, Ms. Best became the interim Register of Deeds for Rhea County, and she subsequently won her first election to that esteemed office, beginning her illustrious and extensive tenure that spanned more than five decades; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of Ms. Best's steadfast years of public service, upon her announcement to retire, the Rhea County Republican Party, in conjunction with the Rhea County government, installed a bench on the courthouse grounds in honor of Ms. Best's longtime service to the county; and

WHEREAS, a resolute constituent of her community, Ms. Best was active in the Republican Party and the Red Cross Organization, and in her free time, she enjoyed bowling and playing softball; and

WHEREAS, she expressed her religious beliefs as a member of the Methodist faith; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Best will be sadly mourned but fondly remembered by her brother, Freddy (Betty) Best; nieces, Diane Mitchell and Gail Best-Mount; nephew, Mark Best; and special friend, Lisa McAllister; and

WHEREAS, she was preceded in death by her parents and brothers, Roy Best and Morgan Best, and sisters, Laura Jean Best and Mary Elizabeth Mitchell; and

WHEREAS, Gladys Best leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Gladys Best, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Ms. Best.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.